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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 9 February 1953

SUBJECT 1. Black Sea Coastal Defenses
2. Maneuvers in the Burgas Area

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1. The construction of trenches and fortifications along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast is still in progress. The work was begun in 1950 and was to have been completed by the beginning of 1952. In an attempt to complete the defenses by the winter of 1952-1953, work is being rushed by all troops of the Varna garrison, Border Guard battalions, infantry and light artillery regiments, and naval and coastal artillery forces. All military motor trucks are at the disposition of these groups; in addition, trucks of the cooperatives have been mobilized for night work. From the Rumanian frontier to a point approximately 30 kilometers south of Varna, trenches have been dug by military detachments. South of this point they have been dug by the Trudovaks.
2. The trenches are 1.4 meters deep. The earth taken out has been used to make a glacis in front of the trenches along the sea and has been covered with sod. The trench system includes machine gun nests for four men. Near Burgas there are three lines of trenches, paralleling the sea. Behind these trenches are bunkers, recently constructed, each having one gun. Bunkers are situated 300 to 500 meters apart and are built of concrete two meters thick. Near Burgas, the guns are in place and the bunkers manned.
3. Along the road from Burgas to Malko Túrnovo, on the heights of the Strandzha (sic) and west along the Valeka river, the bunkers are closer together, at a distance not exceeding 300 meters. Near Tsarevo (Michurin) there are subterranean bunkers with heavy antiaircraft guns.
4. In September 1952, there were maneuvers in the Sarafovo area near Burgas. Soviet specialists are constantly going back and forth in the coastal fortified zones.

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